

Appl. No. 09/832,685
Amdt. dated July 30, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 33-40 and 48-61 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 33, 40, 52, 58, and 60-61 have been amended and claim 39 has been canceled. Support for the amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The office action objected to Figures 4 and 5A, stating that these figures do not show all of the features of claim 58.

Applicants wish to point out that Figure 4 shows all of the elements of amended claim 58. Tristate driver 417 is an example of the tristate driver in claim 58. Interconnect line 418 is an example the first interconnect line.

Output enable generation circuit 425 is an example of the output enable generation circuit in claim 58. Tristate switch 423 is an example of the tristate switch in claim 58. A control input of tristate switch 423 is coupled to output enable generation circuit 425. Bus 403 includes wires that are examples of the second interconnect line.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn in light of the amendments to claim 58 and the disclosure of Figure 4.

Objections to the Claims

The office action objected to claim 52 and claim 60, because of various informalities. These informalities have been corrected as suggested by the office action.

Prior Art Rejections of Claims 33-34 and 37-38

The office action rejected claims 33-34 and 37-38 as being obvious over U.S. Patent 5,682,107 to Tavana et al.

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Independent claim 33 has been amended to include the elements of dependent claim 39. At least these amended features of amended claim 33 are not shown in or suggested by Tavana et al. In addition, the office action did not reject claim 39 over Tavana et al.

Therefore, it is submitted that claims 33-34 and 37-38 are allowable over the cited prior art. Claim 39 has been canceled.

Double Patenting Rejections

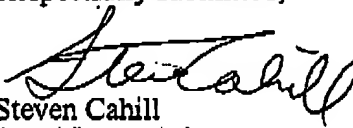
Claims 33-40 and 48-61 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-48 of United States patent number 6,239,613. Applicants request that this rejection be held in abeyance until all of the claims are otherwise allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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